

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, April 2, 2020

2:00 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/719433528>

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Lynn Peterson called the Metro Council meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Present: 7 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Craig Dirksen, Councilor Bob Stacey, Councilor Christine Lewis, and Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez

2. Public Communication

Chris Smith, City of Portland: Mr. Smith encouraged the Metro Council to withhold approval of the \$126 million for preliminary engineering and right-of-way acquisition for the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project until the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) committed to an environmental impact statement (EIS.)

3. Presentations**3.1 Research Center Audit**

Council President Peterson called on Brian Evans, Metro Auditor, to present the Research Center Audit. Mr. Evans provided an overview of the audit and explained that it reviewed five Research Center projects to assess the implementation of project management best practices.

Mr. Evans then shared the audit's findings. He explained that the audit found that funding complexity created challenges for the Research Center to prioritize its work. He stated that the complexity also made it difficult to see the connection between department costs and benefits, which could potentially create confusion and unmet expectations for how work was prioritized.

Mr. Evans provided recommendations to address the weaknesses found in the audit, including recommendations to document scope, schedule, budget, and risks for each project and to formally document project status. He noted

that his office also recommended that Metro ensured resources and expectations for the Research Center were aligned by documenting and communicating the department funding model and determining the need for an ongoing governance structure.

President Peterson then called on Jeff Frkonja, Research Center Director, to provide the management response. Mr. Frkonja thanked Mr. Evans for the audit and noted that staff agreed with the recommendations. He then provided an overview of how his department planned on implementing solutions.

Council Discussion

Councilors thanked Mr. Evans for the audit. Councilor Stacey emphasized that coordination of the Research Center needed to be agency-wide. Councilor Craddick asked about an annual review of the Research Center's plans. Councilor Chase inquired about the Research Center's relationship with the rest of the agency.

4. Consent Agenda

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by Councilor Chase, to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Chase, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Dirksen, Councilor Stacey, Councilor Lewis, and Councilor Gonzalez

- 4.1 Resolution No. 20-5082, For the Purpose of Adding, Amending Existing, or Advancing Future Projects to the 2018-2021 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Which Involves the Advancement or Added Funding to Specific Project Phases for Nine ODOT 2021-2024 Draft STIP Projects, Adding a New TriMet Project and Completing a Major Scope Change to West Linn's OR43 Project (MR20-09-MAR)
- 4.2 Consideration of the Council Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2020

- 4.3 Consideration of the Council Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2020

5. Resolutions

- 5.1 Resolution No. 20-5088, For the Purpose of Amending and Advancing the ODOT Rose Quarter Improvement Project Preliminary Engineering and Right of Way Phases into the 2018-21 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MR20-10-MAR2)

Council President Peterson called on Margi Bradway, Deputy Director of Planning and Development, to present Resolution No. 20-5088. Ms. Bradway provided an overview of the MTIP amendment and explained that it would add approximately \$48 million to the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project's development surveys phase, increasing it to \$73.1 million, and also add \$58 million to the right-of-way phase. She reviewed the discussion at the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) on March 19 related to the amendment, and noted that while there were concerns raised about the environmental review process, as well as project outcomes and partnership agreements, the amendment voted unanimously in favor of the resolution. She informed the Council that the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) had voted that morning to move forward with an environmental assessment for the project, instead of an environmental impact study.

She highlighted that Metro had requested several actions from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the OTC, including that there should be a strong executive advisory committee included in the Albina Vision; a third-party review of the lid; and a partner agreement focused on project outcomes.

Council Discussion

Councilor Lewis asked if the \$1 million for the lid third-party review was included in the amendment. Ms. Bradway clarified that it was not, as it was taken out of a prior

programming of funds. Councilors discussed JPACT's discussion and how the amendment would impact the project moving forward.

Councilor Stacey moved to table the resolution pending further discussion, then removed the motion. He recommended rejecting the resolution. He shared his concerns about the project as proposed, including that he did not feel that ameliorative developments and improvements in accordance with the Albina Vision were an adequate response to the issues raised by adding a lane to relieve congestion at the Rose Quarter without application of traffic management solutions. He explained that it would be impossible to relieve congestion in that area without moderating the volume of traffic at peak periods.

Councilor Chase explained that he would favor an environmental impact study as it would include a deep analysis of the scope, costs, and design alternatives. He expressed interest in a stronger commitment to the OTC's proposed actions. He noted that he would be voting no on the resolution, as he would like to see a much stronger commitment and a partnership developed to address concerns raised about the project and its impacts on the community.

Councilor Gonzalez also expressed support for an environmental impact study. Councilor Dirksen noted that the funding being considered was necessary for the project, regardless of an environmental assessment or environmental impact study.

Councilor Craddick explained that she felt it was best to move forward with the resolution, and plan a future discussion related to the concerns raised, particularly surrounding accountability and project outcomes. Councilor Stacey asked about future amendments related to the Rose

Quarter project. Councilor Gonzalez clarified that the funding approved in the amendment would acquire the land for staging construction and not for acquiring land for the auxiliary lands that were proposed.

Council President Peterson noted that she was disappointed that the OTC decided against an environmental impact study, but that she also appreciated ODOT's commitment to the actions proposed. She also expressed support for further discussion on a potential partnership agreement. She suggested adding a discussion on the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project to the work session agenda for April 7. She also spoke to the importance of discussing transportation demand management, including tolling.

A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by Councilor Dirksen, that this item be approved. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Dirksen, Councilor Lewis, and Councilor Gonzalez

Nay: 2 - Councilor Chase, and Councilor Stacey

6. Chief Operating Officer Communication

Marissa Madrigal, Chief Operating Officer, provided an update on how the agency had been impacted by COVID-19 and gave an overview of how staff were responding to these impacts.

7. Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings or events: the Willamette Falls Project, the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association meeting, the Solid Waste Liaison meeting, and Metro's work to support the region during the COVID-19 crisis.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson

adjourned the Metro Council meeting at 3:50 p.m. The Metro Council will convene the next regular council meeting on April 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nellie Papsdorf, Legislative and Engagement Coordinator